



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF CALAVERAS**

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Subject: Juror Appreciation Week May 12 – 16, 2008

San Andreas, California- The Superior Court of Calaveras County will be celebrating Juror Appreciation Week May 12 – 16, 2008 and is excited to announce new juror system improvements.

In 1998 the State Assembly and Senate passed a concurrent resolution (ACR 118) proclaiming the second full week in May to be Juror Appreciation Week. “Although the court appreciates jurors year round, Juror Appreciation Week is a time to publicly demonstrate our appreciation for the citizens of Calaveras County who perform their civic duty by giving of their time to serve as trial jurors” states Court Executive Officer and Jury Commissioner, Mary Beth Todd.

According to Ms. Todd, the objective of Juror Appreciation Week is to show past and prospective jurors that their contributions are greatly appreciated by the Court and to use it as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of jury service. Presiding Judge Douglas Mewhinney states that “Trial by jury is one of the cornerstones of free societies.” Ms. Todd provides “When you serve as a juror, you not only serve your country, but you serve as an integral part of the justice system.”

Recognizing that the obligation of jury service is often inconvenient, the Superior Court strives to implement improvements to make service less burdensome. In November 2007, the court implemented a new automated voice and web response information system. Through the use of the telephone or the court’s website, jurors may now confirm their reporting instructions, receive specific juror reporting information and even defer their jury service. These services may be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The new system was funded through a grant from the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts.

“By making information for jurors more accessible, it is our hope that it will be easier for people to meet their obligation to serve” states Todd.

During Juror Appreciation Week, special treats, pens, bookmarks and other jury service promotional materials are provided to prospective jurors.

For more information on jury service in Calaveras County, you may visit the court’s website at www.calaveras.courts.ca.gov. For information on the California Jury System, you may visit the California Courts website at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jury.

For further information regarding this press release you may contact Mary Beth Todd at the Calaveras Superior Court by calling (209) 754-6845.